

## **Science Advisory Committee Meeting Notes from 3-7-02 at Thorpewood.**

**Participants:** Ellen Gray (NPS – NCR), Paul Kazyak (MD DNR), Jim Voigt (NPS – CATO), Sue Salmons (NPS – ROCR), Ray Chaput (NPS – NCR), Allan O’Connel (USGS – Patuxent), Diane Pavsek (NPS – NCR), Mikaila Milton (NPS – NCR), Jil Swearingen (NPS – NCR), Scott Bates (NPS – NCR), John Sinclair (NPS – NCR), Christina Wright (NPS – NCR), Ann Brazinski (NPS – GWMP), Doug Curtis (NPS – NCR), Brent Steury (NPS – NACE), Dale Nisbet (NPS – HAFE), Marcus Koenen (NPS – NCR), Scott Bell (NPS – CATO), John Galli (COG), Marian Norris (NPS – NCR), Jennifer Lee (NPS – PRWI), Wendy Cass (NPS – SHEN), Sue Salmons (NPS – ROCR), Bryan Gorsira (NPS – MANA), Julie Thomas (EPA – Chesapeake Bay Program), David Krask (DC Air Quality Division), James Lawry (George Mason University), Robert Higgins (NPS – WASO), Chip Scott (USDA – Forest Service), Jim Sherald (NPS – NCR), Steve Seagle (UM – Center for Environmental Sciences), Jim Comiskey (Smithsonian), Edd Barrows (Georgetown University), Gary Hevel (Smithsonian), George Taylor (George Mason University), Pat Toops (NPS – NCR).

### **Introduction**

Welcome and administrative details were discussed by Ellen Gray.

### **Ground Rules**

Ground rules developed at the 1-10-02 SAC were adapted. Ground Rules include:

- One person speaks at a time.
- No side conversations
- Explain the reasons behind your statements or questions
- Focus on interests, not positions
- Help keep the discussion focused
- Be specific—use examples
- Listen respectfully
- Leave on Time (added during this meeting)

### **Overview**

The NPS Inventory and Monitoring program was established to 1. collect baseline resource inventories of 12 data sets including vertebrates and vascular plants and 2. establish long-term ecological monitoring program.

Implementation steps for the Monitoring Plan include establishing: 1. a Board of Directors, 2. a Science Advisory Committee (SAC), 3. review of park data, 4. hold a scoping workshop, 5. conduct peer review, and turn in a final plan.

Timeline:

Summer 01 – Begin collecting park monitoring data  
Winter 01 – First and Second SAC  
Spring 02 – Third and Fourth SAC  
Summer 02 – Scoping Workshop (9-11 July) at National Conservation Training Center  
Fall 02 - Draft of Monitoring Plan Chapters 2 and 3 due.  
Spring 03 – Draft of Monitoring Plan Chapter 4 due.  
Spring 04 – Draft of Final Plan due.

### January SAC – Review

The outcome of the January SAC meeting included the identification of the most Important Natural Resources in the region. These resources include:

Air  
Geologic Resources  
Landscape  
Terrestrial Vegetation Communities  
Rare, Threatened and Endangered  
Water  
Wildlife – Vertebrates  
Wildlife – Invertebrates  
Other – including viewsheds, aesthetics, smell, sound, light, review process.

### **Purpose of Today's Meeting**

Continue the development of a long-term monitoring plan for the National Capital Region of the NPS to preserve and enhance the region's most important natural resources.

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. Develop a draft list of stressors, sources, and their ecological effects on each Important Resource within NCR.
2. Begin to list draft vital signs for each Important Resource.
3. Provide an update on the July Scoping Meeting

### **Workgroup Tasks**

Workgroups were set up for each Important Resource at the January SAC. Today's tasks are to identify:

1. Resource Components
2. Stressors
3. Sources
4. Ecological Effects
5. Severity of Threat

## 6. Indicators

This information will provide the I & M team with information needed to develop Ecosystem Models.

Suggestions include: Think broadly and remember that these are drafts. We will be able to add to the information and make numerous changes; the final ecosystem models will be also be peer reviewed.

### **Workgroup Leaders**

In order to accomplish the tasks stated above, each workgroup has a Group Leader. Their role is to: 1. facilitate communication between the workgroup and the I & M Team, 2. keep notes, 3. summarize the Workgroup Discussion at the end of the meeting.

In addition to the Group Leader, each workgroup will have a Facilitator. Their role is to: 1. ensure that tasks are completed, 2. keep the group focused, and 3. ensure input from all participants.

### **Workgroups Meet**

#### **Workgroup presentations**

Each workgroup leader presented a summary of the work accomplished by the workgroup.

### **Closing**

#### **Suggestions for next meeting – Discussion and Q & A:**

Send out tables to everyone

Integrate work – identify overlap among groups

West Nile Virus

Geology group needs more input

Each group should meet separately with I & M

Research needed to identify information gaps – perhaps contract someone to fill the gaps.

Urban development – balance

Vital Signs should be discussed as a large group

### **Suggestions for next meeting – Written Comments:**

1. Provide workgroups with a preliminary list of Indicators/Vital signs which NPS is currently monitoring.
2. Provide workgroups with a list of what external agencies are currently monitoring.
3. Bring in more experts (e.g. Geologists from region/parks; Air **workgroups** needs representatives from EPA/MD/VA).
4. Define edge boundaries (e.g. Geology – water/ geology – landscape)
5. Diagram all sources vs. stressors vs. resource components as an aid to determine overlap and which group gets responsibility for what part of the overlap.
6. May require more than one other SAC meeting before scoping to integrate across groups.
7. Build on what has been done; integrate groups (similar stressors and vital signs among groups).
8. Provide “Sharpie” markers with pointed tips to workgroups.
9. Decrease the “overview of results” section when each group lists its accomplishments/products. It is important to share results but the current format is boring and hard to follow.
10. The facilitator of each group should be required to assign a scribe to fill out the flip charts...that way they can focus on the discussion.
11. A sweet afternoon snack will help keep folks awake for the afternoon session.
12. Groups needed more help with definitions stressors vs. sources.
13. Make Timeline bigger.

### **What worked well – Written Comments:**

1. Picking areas of discussion in advance: air, water, geology, etc.
2. Background info – development of the table, stressors, sources, ecological effects.
3. Small groups
4. Facilitation for each group (helped keep on track)

5. Excellent facility
6. Mixing non-NPS/NPS into groups was good
7. Having a Shenandoah rep (been through the I & M planning process as a prototype).
8. Kept on task and met objectives
9. Accomplished a lot
10. Small groups brainstorming.
11. Purpose and objectives states clearly.

**Next Meeting:** 23 May at Catoctin Mountain Park.

**Action Items:** I & M Team will gather the tables from each workgroup and will integrate the information before the next SAC Meeting.

**END OF MEETING**